



AMERICAN FRONTIER CULTURE FOUNDATION

Bringing the Past to Life

Volume 21, No. 2 Fall 2006

Fall Schedule Features Special Events

German Heritage Celebrated at Oktoberfest

During the weekend of October 6 & 7 we invite you to participate in the Frontier Culture Museum's traditional Oktoberfest celebration. Join us at the Lee S. Cochran Pavilion for performances of German brass band music, traditional dancing demonstrations, German-style and all-American foods, and a variety of beers and soft drinks. *Shippensburg Blaskapelle*, a traditional German dance and polka band from Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, and the *Alte Kameraden*, a specialized German band comprised of members of the Fairfax Municipal Band, will provide German music throughout the weekend. *Alt Washingtonia*, the largest German dance troupe in the Washington, DC metro area, will offer traditional dance demonstrations on Saturday.

We will offer children's activities at our authentic 17th century German Farm from 11am-5pm on Saturday. Visitors may also walk the Museum grounds and learn about the Scotch-Irish and English immigrant cultures which joined the Germans in settling the early American frontier. You may view the complete Oktoberfest schedule at our Internet site (www.frontiermuseum.org).



We are extremely grateful for the support provided by our Oktoberfest sponsors, include Adelphia Media Services, Blue Ridge Beverage Co., Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc., CVR Rental, The Leader Publishing Co., Inc., Planters Bank & Trust Co., and the Staunton-Augusta New Car Dealers Association.

The Museum's German Farm, a 17th century timber-frame farmhouse and barn complex, was relocated to the Museum from its original location in Hordt, a small village in the Rhineland-Pfalz, a region of modern Germany located close to the French border, along the Rhine river. The farm family who originally lived in the home might have emigrated to America to purchase land, for religious freedom, and to escape the wars and famine which had plagued the Rhineland-Pfalz region for years during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. ●

Fortune Williams Music Festival

The Museum is honored to host the 4th annual Fortune Williams Music Festival from September 29 – October 1. The Festival, already one of the Museum's most anticipated events, will feature the music of Jimmy Fortune and Robin & Linda Williams, and their special guests Rodney Crowell, Radney Foster, The Gibson Brothers, Garrison Keillor & The Hopeful Gospel Choir, and Jim Lauderdale. The weekend will also include performances by the Blue Ridge Irish Music School, the Al Hamilton Community Choir, the trio of Jim Harrington, Buddy Thomas & Richard Adams, The Itinerant Band, Andrea Saunders, Troublesome Creek String Band, and Bill Wellington at various sites around the Museum.

The Festival kicks off with a reception with the artists on Friday evening, followed by Songwriters in the Round and a concert featuring Jimmy Fortune, Robin & Linda Williams, Radney Foster, and Jim Lauderdale. For a complete schedule of activities and ticket information please call the Museum at 540-332-7850 or visit the Festival's Internet site at www.fortunewilliamsmusicfestival.com.

Harrisonburg Auto Mall is the proud sponsor of Jimmy Fortune. Planters Bank & Trust is sponsoring Robin & Linda Williams. Rodney Crowell is

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EXPANSION OF THE FRONTIER

Bowman House Nears Completion

Although Ray Wright and his staff continue their hard work toward completion of the Museum's newest exhibit, the Bowman House, we initiated guided tours of the exhibit in May. We invite you to request a tour during your next visit to the Museum.

Simply express your interest to the staff at our Visitors Center during the Museum's regular hours of operation. Bowman House tours emphasize issues of historic construction, historic architecture, restoration, and the Bowman family.

Earlier this year volunteer George Lott guided Museum staff in the reproduction of several handcrafted items for use inside the Bowman House, including a hanging cupboard, bench, and a painted blanket chest. Our blacksmiths are also working on a reproduction of the original fireplace crane.



Preparing the interior for plaster.

During the summer months our staff have been applying the final coats of plaster inside the house and preparing the furnishings plan. Of particular note is the time-consuming and detail-intensive process of working with technical consultants to analyze the paint samples

recovered from the Bowman House interior. The Museum was fortunate to have identified surfaces containing multiple layers of paint, offering our staff invaluable time capsules. The paint analysis will allow staff to complete the interior work and enrich the story our interpreters share with Museum visitors.

As the material elements of the Bowman House near completion, our staff are also working diligently on plans for exhibit interpretation, costuming, historic gardens, livestock, and other elements essential to the success of the exhibit.

MUSEUM STAFF RETURN FROM NIGERIA



FCM team with Igbo tribal leaders.

Summer 2007 will represent the next pivotal moment in the development of the Museum. The Master Site Plan calls for the strategic relocation of the existing 19th-century American Farm and the reproduction of a West African exhibit in its place. Following several years of research and planning the

Museum is poised to realize this vision in the coming year.

In our Spring newsletter (available at www.frontiermuseum.org) we introduced the premise for the West African exhibit as well as

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Heritage Golf Classic

The 2006 Heritage Classic Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, September 21, at the Country Club of Staunton. This tournament is greatly anticipated by sponsors and golfers each year. All proceeds benefit the American Frontier Culture Foundation, which exists to support the wonderful educational programs and cultural exhibits of the Frontier Culture Museum.

The format is unusual for most charity golf tournaments. Using the Ryder Cup format, the golfers are divided into two teams, the Scots and the Irish. There are two members of each team in each foursome playing against each other, captain's choice. At the end of the day, all scores are recorded and the winning team is determined. The Irish team was the victor during the past two years. The Scots have vowed to take back the trophy in 2006, but the Irish will undoubtedly put up a good fight to defend their title.

Tee time is signaled by bagpipes, gathering the players for the opening ceremony where the rules of play are explained and pep talks are given by the two honorary captains, Retired State Supreme Court Justice George M. Cochran for the Scots and Retired State Supreme Court Justice Roscoe B. Stephenson, Jr., for the Irish team.

Golfers and their guests enjoy a fun and relaxing reception and dinner following the tournament at the Museum's Lee S. Cochran Pavilion.

The tournament enjoys a wonderful field of sponsors each year. The 2006 sponsors are: Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc., Coors Light, Harrisonburg Auto Mall, Blue Ridge Lumber, Blue Ridge Appraisals, Augusta Heritage Bank, Dominion Virginia Power, Community Bank, McDonough Toyota, Augusta Lumber Co., REO Distribution Co., David Brown Real Estate, Planters Bank, First Citizens Bank, H & R, Inc., Nielsen Builders, Inc., Domino's Pizza, Obaugh Ford, Real Estate III, Elliott Chevrolet, Augusta Frontier Bank, Bank Design & Equipment Co., Dierman Realty Group, BB&T Scott & Stringfellow, BB&T Barger Insurance, Mr. Benn Legum, Transit Mixed Concrete, Mr. Bud Flanders, Sam's Hot Dogs, Davenport & Co., Planters Bank & Trust Co., Terry Court Properties, B & S Paving, Mather's Construction Co., Parker Compound Bows, Knopp Enterprises, Inc., Shenandoah Valley Water, and First Bank & Trust Co.

For more information concerning the tournament, please contact Fran Carrington at 332-7850 or fran.carrington@fcmv.virginia.gov.

Museum Staff Return from Nigeria *continued from page 2*

a summary of the important decisions made during the research phase. Of particular importance was the determination that the Igbo people (pronounced EEBOW) of southeastern Nigeria represented the largest percentage of Africans brought to Virginia during the period represented by the Museum. This discovery provided important focus for planning a three-week trip to Nigeria conducted by Eric Bryan, Ray Wright, and Dr. Johnston Njoku in March of this year.

Of particular importance to the success of the trip was the role played by Mrs. Umebe Onyejekwe, a Deputy Director with Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments. She played a critical role in communicating across Nigerian agencies, arranging for transportation and security, and making arrangements with state and local officials. She greeted our staff upon their arrival in Nigeria and traveled as a member of the team for the duration of the trip.

While in Nigeria the Museum's team traveled over 1200 miles by van over often rough roads to visit some fifteen village groups and nearly thirty settlements and compounds – some of which were very remote – in search of surviving examples of traditional Igbo architecture and culture. The team took nearly two thousand photographs and made both video and audio recordings. The team also met with the Federal Minister of Culture and Tourism, four traditional rulers, as well as cultural and tourism officials from Nigeria's five Igbo states, museum curators, archaeologists, and rural villagers.

The trip to Nigeria delivered important and exciting results. The Museum's team was able to assess and document the spectrum of traditional Igbo architectural forms and to examine and document basic building materials. More importantly, they obtained a better

understanding of the geography of the Igbo homeland and how it influenced elements of Igbo culture and the slave trade, issues of critical importance to the development of the Museum's exhibit.

Much to their surprise the team located many remote Igbo compounds that displayed the use of traditional architecture and Igbo culture, including methods of cooking, farming, compound arrangement, etc. Although the team recognized some modern materials used in the construction of living quarters and compound walls, as well as incorporated into cooking methods, the traditional techniques have remained relatively intact. From these examples the team will be able to draw many elements for the Museum's exhibit.

During the period of August 9-11 we hosted a working meeting of the West African exhibit's Advisory Panel. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the direction of the exhibit and to assist with several decisions critical to the preparation of exhibit and educational program plans. Mrs. Onyejekwe, the latest addition to the Advisory Panel, traveled from Nigeria for this meeting, spending over a week in Virginia visiting the Commonwealth's cultural institutions and receiving an in-depth introduction to the Frontier Culture Museum's current exhibits.

The many wonderful ideas and recommendations generated from this meeting addressed a range of critical topics from the configuration of living structures to critical messages for exhibit interpretation. In addition, we advanced our discussion with Mrs. Onyejekwe concerning an agreement with Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments for continued interaction between our organizations, the results of which may include exchanges of personnel and artifacts.

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Contributions to the Frontier Annual Fund support many significant investments in the future of the Frontier Culture Museum. We extend our most heartfelt appreciation to the individuals, businesses, and foundations who helped us accomplish so much during our 2005-2006 fiscal year.

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The American Frontier Culture Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our donors and members, who make possible our efforts to share our story with thousands of children and members of the public through education, living history and family-focused programs.

While we strive to make certain that all gifts are acknowledged accurately, it is possible that errors have been made in the foregoing list. If any are discovered, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us so that we can make appropriate changes.

Museum Hosts Naturalization Ceremony



The Frontier Culture Museum will host its seventh Immigration and Naturalization Ceremony on Friday, September 29, 2006. Approximately seventy-five people will take the oath of citizenship

and become new Americans in the moving, hour-long service. The oath is administered by a senior Judge from the United States District Court, Western District, and the ceremony includes patriotic music, a keynote address, and gifts to the new citizens from the Museum and local Chapters of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution. The Museum partners with local civic groups and businesses to offer the new citizens and guests an all-American pizza and Coca-Cola lunch after the ceremony. Several classes of schoolchildren from local public and private schools attend the ceremony by special invitation. As our mission is to explore the formation of a distinctive American folk culture from the synthesis of immigrant cultures, the Museum is a particularly appropriate and proud host of this ceremony. 🍷

Plan your next Special Event at the Frontier Culture Museum

Look no further than the Frontier Culture Museum for your next special event. A memorable setting, easy access and plenty of parking make this the ideal location to host a corporate function, wedding, family reunion, or

other special occasion. Our facilities are available during the Spring, Summer, and Fall. For more information, or to reserve Museum facilities for your next event, please contact Linda Bowers at 540-332-7850, ext. 172.

Fortune Williams Music Festival *continued from front page*

sponsored by Blue Ridge Beverage. Garrison Keillor & The Hopeful Gospel Choir is sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Chevrolet Dealers. Radney Foster and Jim Lauderdale are sponsored by the Stonewall Jackson Hotel & Conference Center and Shenandoah Spring Water.

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Museum Educates Virginia's Students

Last year alone the Frontier Culture Museum welcomed over 20,000 school-age children participating in school field trips. While at the Museum the children tour our historic farms, interact with our interpreters, and participate in a variety of educational hands-on programs designed to support the Virginia Standards of Learning. Program themes range from *Immigration, Daily Life & Culture, Animals, Tools*, to *Farming & Food*, and *Holidays in History*. The Museum also offers Extended Learning programs that delve more deeply into specific content, including *Coming to America, Through a Child's Eyes*, and *Historic House Building*, as well as programs offered in conjunction with the Wildlife Center of Virginia and the Children's Art Network.

Education programs for 2006-2007 will be under the direction of the Museum's new Education Director, Larry Sabourin. Larry comes to the Frontier Culture Museum after teaching within the Augusta County School district and teaching World History at a private school in Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands.

Since his arrival at the Museum in July 2006, Larry has embarked upon an impressive list of goals for our educational programs. He will be aided in his work by the Museum's Teacher Advisory Panel consisting of K-12 teachers from across Virginia. Together they will continue to develop the Museum's curriculum and create new support materials in multiple formats for teacher and students.



For more information regarding the Museum's educational programs please visit our Internet site at www.frontiermuseum.org or contact Larry Sabourin, Education Director, at 540-332-7850 or larry.sabourin@fcmv.virginia.gov. 



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